

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-13 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-6; prior art fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a circuit comprising an electronically controlled transistor element configured for conveying a current of a magnitude belonging within a predefined range, a device for detecting the direction of the current, and a control circuit configured for controlling the transistor element in such a manner that a current from the common point to one of the modules can be essentially prevented, further wherein the transistor element can be controlled in such a manner that a pre-selected voltage drop is produced across the transistor element independently of the current magnitude.

Claims 7-11; prior art fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a method of coupling a number of power-supplying modules to a common point, wherein an electronically controlled transistor element conveys a current of a magnitude belonging within a pre-defined range from a respective one of the power-supplying modules, and wherein the direction of the current is detected, and wherein a current from the common point to the module is essentially prevented by controlling the transistor element off if a current flows from the common point to the module, further wherein the transistor element is controlled in such a manner that a pre-selected voltage drop is provided across the transistor element independently of the current magnitude.

Claims 12; prior art fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a circuit comprising an electronically controlled transistor element configured for conveying a current of a magnitude belonging within a predefined range, a device for detecting the direction of the current, and a control circuit configured for controlling the transistor element in such a manner that a current from the common point to one of said modules can be essentially prevented, further wherein the transistor element can be controlled in such a manner that a pre-selected voltage drop is produced across the transistor element independently of the current magnitude, the control circuit having an input coupled across the transistor element and having an output coupled to a control electrode of the transistor element to maintain the pre-selected voltage drop.

Claim 13; prior art fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, a method of coupling a number of power-supplying modules to a common point, wherein an electronically controlled transistor element conveys a current of a magnitude belonging within a pre-defined range from a respective one of the power-supplying modules, and wherein the direction of the current is detected, and wherein a current from the common point to the module is essentially prevented by controlling the transistor element off if a current flows from the common point to the module, further wherein the transistor element is controlled in such a manner that a pre-selected voltage drop is provided across the transistor element independently of the current magnitude by monitoring the voltage drop across the transistor element and providing a feedback voltage to a control electrode of the transistor element to maintain the pre-selected voltage drop.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 6,800,962 Bahl et al. disclose an apparatus for current sharing in redundant power supplies; US 4,490,779 Minks discloses an electric power system; US 3,558,982 Seeley discloses a power supply device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary L. Laxton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm Ullah can be reached on (571) 272-2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gary L. Laxton/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2838

10/16/2008